CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator:		Team:	CCRB Case #:	✓ Force	☐ Discourt.	U.S.
Monique West		Squad #2	201701699	✓ Abuse	O.L.	✓ Injury
Incident Date(s)		Location of Incident:	•	Precinct:	18 Mo. SOL	EO SOL
Friday, 02/24/2017 10:00 AM		§ 87(2)(b)		10	8/24/2018	8/24/2018
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reported	: Date/Time	e Received at CCI	RB
Fri, 02/24/2017 1:43 PM	IAB Phone		Phone	Mon, 03/0	Mon, 03/06/2017 11:12 AM	
Complainant/Victim	Туре	Home Addr	ess			
Witness(es)		Home Addr	ess			
Withest (es)			CSS			
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command			
1. POM Elijah Saladeen	27254	924449	PSA 4			
2. POF Natalie Roman	27562	934128	PSA 4			
Officer(s)	Allegation	on		Inve	estigator Recon	nmendation
A.POM Elijah Saladeen	Abuse: P	Police Officer Elijah Sal	adeen stopped § 87(2)(l	b)		
B.POF Natalie Roman	Abuse: Police Officer Natalie Roman stopped § 87(2)(b)					
C.POM Elijah Saladeen	Abuse: Police Officer Elijah Saladeen frisked §87(2)(b)					
D.POM Elijah Saladeen	Abuse: Police Officer Elijah Saladeen searched §87(2)(b)					
E.POM Elijah Saladeen	Force: Police Officer Elijah Saladeen used physical force against § 87(2)(b)					
F.POM Elijah Saladeen	Force: Police Officer Elijah Saladeen used a chokehold against §87(2)(b)					
G.POF Natalie Roman	Force: Poagainst §	olice Officer Natalie Ro 87(2)(b)	oman used physical f	orce		
H.POM Elijah Saladeen	Force: Poagainst §	olice Officer Elijah Sala 87(2)(b)	adeen used physical	force		

Case Summary

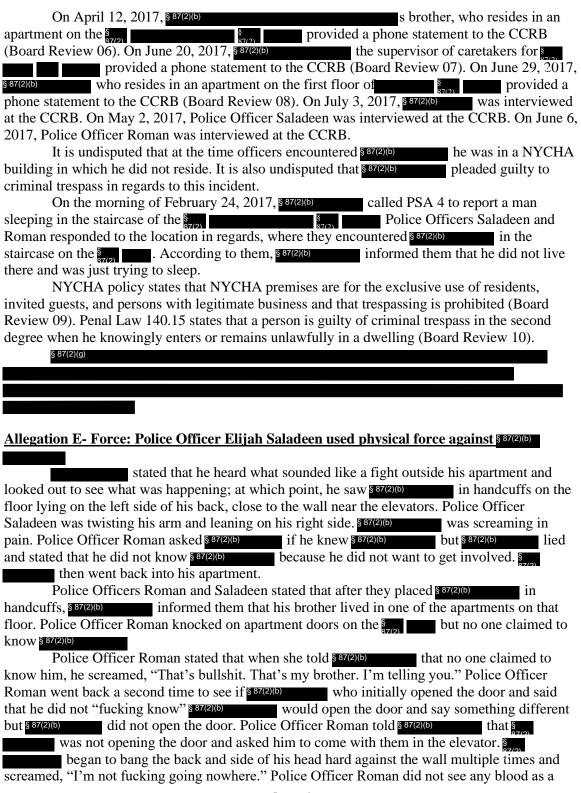
<u>Case Summary</u>
On February 24, 2017, Captain John Potkay of PSA 4 reported the following incident to
the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB). On March 6, 2017, this case was received by the CCRB. The
undersigned investigator and 87(2)(g)
This case is being closed over 90 days after
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
it was received due to difficulties trying to find and obtain statements from the victim, \$87(2)(b)
and witnesses.
On February 24, 2017, at approximately 10:00 a.m., Police Officer Elijah Saladeen and
Police Officer Natalie Roman of PSA 4 responded to a call of a man sleeping on the
in Manhattan. When they arrived, they encountered \$87(2)(b) in the
stairwell of the stairw
(allegations A and B) and Police Officer Saladeen frisked and searched \$87(2)(b)
(allegations C and D) and then placed him in handcuffs. When \$87(2)(b) began to allegedly
bang his head against the wall, Police Officer Saladeen used physical force to stop him
(allegation E). As they escorted §87(2)(b) downstairs in the elevator, a scuffle ensued.
Police Officer Saladeen used a chokehold against \$87(2)(b) (allegation F) and then he and
Police Officer Roman used force to restrain him in the lobby (allegations G and H).
\$ 87(2)(b)
Video footage from the building's surveillance cameras located in the elevator and the
lobby captured a portion of this incident. The relevant video footage is embedded below and can
be found in IAs #4 and #5 (Board Reviews 02 and 03).
lacktriangle
201701699_20170307_1304_DM.mp4
201701035_20170301_1304_DM::mp4
Mediation, Civil and Criminal Histories
• Due to \$87(2)(b) this case was not
suitable for mediation.
● § 87(2)(b):§§ 86(1)(3)(4):§ 87(2)(c)
5 5 (-)(-)(-)(-)(-)(-)(-)(-)(-)(-)(-)(-)(-)(
§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(b);§§ 86(1)(3)(4);§ 87(2)(c)
• As of August 29, 2017, \$87(2)(6) has not filed a Notice of Claim with the
Comptroller's Office in regards to this incident (Board Review 12).
Civilian and Officer CCRB Histories
• This is the first CCRB complaint involving \$87(2)(b) (Board Review 05).
 Police Officer Saladeen has been a member of the NYPD for 18 years and has had 12
prior allegations against him involving seven cases with no substantiated allegations or
recommendations of other misconduct. He has six prior force allegations. Two were
unfounded, two were unsubstantiated, one was exonerated, and one was closed as
complainant uncooperative (see officer history).

Page 2

Police Officer Roman has been a member of the NYPD for 13 years and has had five prior allegations against her involving three cases with one substantiated allegation and no recommendations of other misconduct. § 87(2)(9) In CCRB case #201411757, an allegation that Police Officer Roman spoke discourteously to an individual was substantiated. She received a Command Discipline A from the NYPD. **Potential Issues** The investigation was unable to locate § 87(2)(b who is homeless, and was therefore unable to interview him. His brother, § 87(2)(b) informed the CCRB that did not wish to participate in an investigation and stated that he was unable to provide contact information for §87(2)(b) The investigation, however, obtained video footage showing most of the incident, and a sworn statement from a witness. Sergeant Christopher Morano of IAB's group 54 informed the undersigned investigator that IAB investigators found a witness, a resident of the building. walking her dog in front of the building while they were conducting a canvass. The IAB investigators did not obtain §87(2)(b) address or phone number and without any additional information, the investigation was unable to locate her. IAB's case file was requested and, as per IAB, it will be provided at the conclusion of their investigation. It will be added to the CCRB case file upon receipt. CCRB investigators conducted field work at the incident location and located a witness, stated that she was in her apartment during the incident and that she only heard noises. She declined to give a sworn statement. a caretaker at the incident location, refused to provide a statement to the CCRB prior to speaking to her attorney. She stated that she would call back after speaking to her attorney but she never called or responded to the CCRB's subsequent attempts to contact her. **Findings and Recommendations Allegations Not Pleaded** Force-\$87(2)(b) Video footage from the surveillance cameras in the elevator show that Police Officer Saladeen placed § 87(2)(b) in a chokehold. A restriction of breathing allegation was not pleaded because without a statement from §87(2)(6) unknown whether his breathing was restricted by the chokehold. Allegation A- Abuse of Authority: Police Officer Elijah Saladeen stopped § 87(2)(b) Allegation B- Abuse of Authority: Police Officer Natalie Roman stopped 887(2)(6)

Page 3

Allegation C- Abuse of Authority: Police Officer Elijah Saladeen frisked 887(2)(b)
Allegation D- Abuse of Authority: Police Officer Elijah Saladeen searched 887(2)(b)



Page 4

result of this. Police Officer Roman said, "What are you crazy? Don't do that." screamed, "No. I'm not going to jail. This is bullshit." Police Officer Saladeen "took him," using force, to stop him from banging his head.

Police Officer Saladeen stated that screen became irritated and "fidgety," swaying his body back and forth. who was standing with his back to the wall, then banged the back of his head hard against the wall. Police Officer Saladeen grabbed screen by his torso and pulled him from against the wall and held him in the center of the hallway, to keep him from banging his head against the wall again.

Force may be used when it is reasonable to ensure the safety of a member of the service or a third person, or otherwise protect life, or when it is reasonable to place a person in custody or to prevent escape from custody. In all circumstances, any application or use of force must be reasonable under the circumstances. Patrol Guide Procedure 221-01 (Board Review 11).

Allegation F- Force: Police Officer Saladeen used a chokehold against § 87(2)(b)

Video footage taken from the elevator's surveillance camera, embedded below, shows a handcuffed \$87(2)(b) facing the corner of the elevator for the majority of the ride. (a) does not appear to be bleeding or to have any injuries to his face in the elevator. Police Officer Saladeen, who is holding \$87(2)(b) by his arm, lets go to take out his cell phone.

After a few seconds, \$87(2)(b) turns his head towards Police Officer Saladeen in a quick motion. Police Officer Saladeen then grabs \$87(2)(b) by the arm and pushes him back into the corner of the elevator. As the elevator door opens, Police Officer Saladeen appears to grab by the back of his neck. There is some push and pull movements between the two of them before Police Officer Saladeen places his entire forearm around the front of \$87(2)(b) s neck as he pushes him out of the elevator from behind. Police Officer Saladeen's arm remains across the front of \$87(2)(b) s neck for the next 10 seconds, as they exit the elevator and go off camera. At the time they leave the view of the camera, they are both upright and Police Officer Saladeen's arm is still across the front of \$87(2)(b) s neck. \$87(2)(b) s neck. \$87(2)(b) does not appear to have any apparent injuries or bleeding to his face as they exit the elevator.



201701699_20170307_1304_DM.mp4

video footage from the lobby, embedded below, shows Police Officers Saladeen and exiting the elevator with Police Officer Saladeen immediately behind \$87(2)(b) with his arm apparently across the front of \$87(2)(b) s neck as they exit. Police Officer Saladeen's arm remains across the front of \$87(2)(b) s neck for approximately 10 seconds after they exit the elevator, until they both fall to the ground, with \$97(2)(b) s back with his arm apparently still across the front of \$87(2)(b) s neck. Once they are on the ground, Police Officer Saladeen removes his arm and rises to straddle \$87(2)(b)

Page 5



201701699_20170829_1714_DM.mp4

In his CCRB interview, prior to being shown the video footage, Police Officer Saladeen began to bang his head against the wall, on the state , he decided to to the hospital as an EDP. While in the elevator, on the way to the lobby, began to say, "I'm going to get five years. I'm not going. I hate my life right now. I think I can take you" and began to "challenge" the officers. Neither Police Officer Saladeen nor Police Officer Roman responded to him. When the elevator door opened, Police Officer Saladeen began escorting § 87(2)(b) who was to his right, off of the elevator by his arm; at which turned towards him and moved his face in Police Officer Saladeen's direction, leading him to believe that he was attempting to bite and spit at him. Police Officer Saladeen continued to try to get \$87(2)(b) off of the elevator. He stated that there was a bit of confusion because Police Officer Roman was trying to get off of the elevator at the same time. Other than holding § 87(2)(b) s arm and moving him out of the elevator, he did not take any additional action at that time. After watching the video, during his CCRB interview, Police Officer Saladeen stated that

After watching the video, during his CCRB interview, Police Officer Saladeen stated that he did not recall having his arm around street stated that. When asked why he grabbed him in that manner, he stated that he was simply trying to hold him. When his legal representative asked whether he was intentionally grabbing his neck or whether he was grabbing his torso, Police Officer Saladeen responded, "No. I was just restraining him, holding him. It wasn't a choke."

Police Officer Roman stated that at the point they entered the elevator, they had not decided what they were going to do with screamed. Inside of the elevator, screamed, "This is bullshit. My life has been ridiculous. Sometimes I feel like I just want to die." Police Officer Saladeen told him to, "Please calm down." They were trying to get him to stop making those comments and told him to stop talking. Screamed, "No. This is bullshit. I can't take this. I'm not going to jail." Shortly before the elevator doors opened, charged at Police Officer Saladeen "out of nowhere." He threw his whole body, chest first, on top of Police Officer Saladeen. Police Officer Roman believed that screamed to grab scream around his torso. Police Officer Roman did not remember if Police Officer Saladeen placed his arms over or under scream scream arms. They were facing each other with scream police Officer Roman.

Police Officer Roman stated that even though \$87(2)(6) s hands were handcuffed, he was trying to fight and they began to wrestle. Police Officer Roman tried to "bear hug" s bottom area and grabbed his legs because he was kicking. Once she did this, she did not look up and was more focused on his legs. \$87(2)(6) pushed her back, causing her to lose her grip on his legs. In response, she grabbed his pants. Police Officer Saladeen was "taking care of" his upper body. Aside from the bear hug, she did not know what else, if anything, Police Officer Saladeen did in response to \$87(2)(6) s movements. Police Officer Roman heard make "spitting noises" with his throat as if he was about to spit. She did not see him spit and he did not spit on her. She was not sure whether he spit on Police Officer Saladeen. While they were still struggling with him, the elevator doors opened. She did not recall seeing Police Officer Saladeen put his arm around \$87(2)(6) s neck.

Page 6

Patrol Guide Procedure 221-01 states that members of the service shall not use a
chokehold and includes, but is not limited to, any pressure to the throat or windpipe which may
prevent or hinder or reduce the intake of air (Board Review 11).
§ 87(2)(g)
Allogation C. Forces Delice Officer Notelie Doman used physical force against \$27/900
Allegation G- Force: Police Officer Natalie Roman used physical force against §87(2)(b)
Allegation H- Force: Police Officer Elijah Saladeen used physical force against §87(2)(6)
Video footage from the cameras in the lobby of the building, embedded below, shows
that once Police Officer Saladeen and ser(2)(6) step out of the elevator, the struggle between
them causes them to fall to the ground. §87(2)(6) ended up faced down on the floor while
Police Officer Saladeen straddled him. \$87(2)(b) does not appear to move once in this
position. Police Officer Roman appears to stand on \$87(2) s lower legs, near his ankles.
Police Officer Saladeen moves his hands but it is unclear what he is doing. After a few seconds,
Police Officer Roman walks out of the view of the camera. Police Officer Saladeen pulls
to a seated position on the floor, holding him by what appears to be the back of his neck with one hand. He appears to be texting with his other hand. He puts the phone away, grabs
587(2)(b) by what appears to be texting with his other hand. He puts the phone away, grabs
holding him with one hand before taking his phone back out. §87(2)(b) does not appear to
have any apparent bleeding or injuries to his face at this point.
nave any apparent orecang of injuries to his face at this point.
201701699_20170906_1520_DM.mp4
After a while, \$87(2)(b) moves to stand and Police Officer Saladeen pushes him
back down to the floor. Approximately five seconds later, Police Officer Saladeen appears to
punch \$87(2)(b) at least three times in quick succession. It is unclear if or where those
punches land; however, Police Officer \$87(2)(b) is straddling \$87(2)(b) s upper torso and
the punches appear aimed towards \$87(2)(b) shead, which is blocked from camera view by
Police Officer §87(2)(b) s body. §87(2)(b) can be seen moving his legs during this time.
Approximately five seconds after the initial apparent punches, at least once more. Police Officer
Saladeen appears to punch saladeen again. It is unclear if or where the strike lands though
again, it appears to be in the area of \$87(2)(b) s head. \$87(2)(b) continues to move his
body. Police Officers Saladeen and Roman appear to use their lower body to restrain him. It is
unclear what they are doing with their hands. §87(2)(b) eventually stops moving. The rest of
the video continues with \$87(2)(b) living still on his left side with the officers leaning over

Page 7

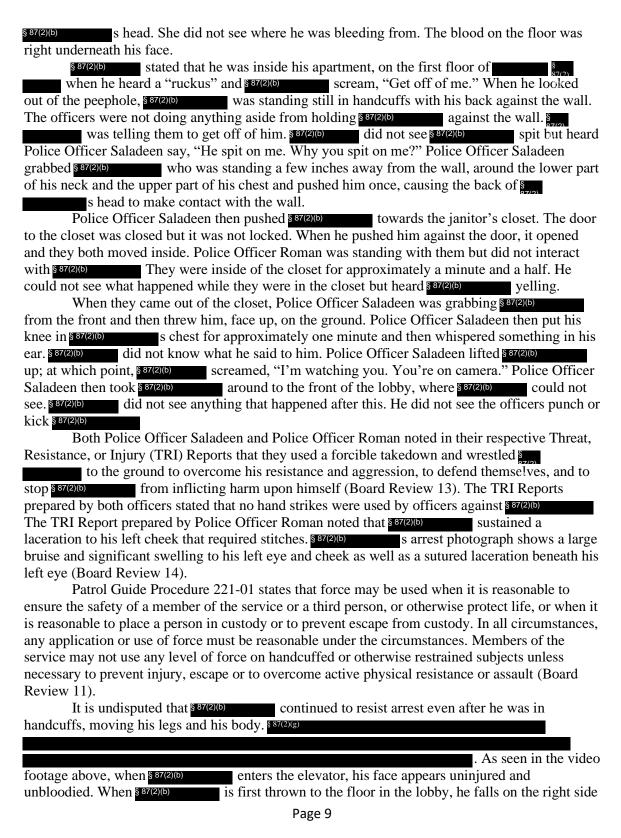
CCRB Case # 201701699

him.



201701699_20170829_1716_DM.mp4

Police Officer Saladeen stated that he tried to restrain § 87(2)(b) by holding onto whatever part of his body he could get and told him to stop resisting. He was not sure which parts of his body he grabbed onto but he believed that it was the front of his body, his arms, and waist. He estimated that after approximately three minutes of struggling with \$87(2)(b) twice in the face below the cheek bone to get him to stop resisting. The strikes were seconds apart. Police Officer Saladeen commanded him to stop resisting at least twice. He began commands while they were struggling on the floor before he struck him. He commanded him to stop resisting again after he struck him. The struggle continued after he struck him but to a lesser extent. § 87(2)(b) never stopped resisting but he stopped pulling away. He continued to yell and scream. Police Officer Saladeen was able to gain physical control of after the second punch. Police Officer Saladeen stated that § 87(2)(b) spit on him during this time but denied that he successfully spit on him or that he did anything to stop him from spitting. Police Officer Roman stated that Police Officer Saladeen looked back and saw her s bottom area and told her to let him go, stating that he had him. She asked him if he was sure and stated that she was trying to help him. He repeated for her to let him go and that he had him; Police Officer Roman released her grip on §87(2)(b) After they fell to the ground, § 87(2)(b) began kicking his legs and placing one leg over the other to try to turn his body over, and push his upper body away from the floor, in order to get out of Police Officer Saladeen's hold. Police Officer Roman stood with both of her feet on \$87(2)(b) legs to stop him from turning, flipping, and kicking. Police Officer Saladeen saw her helping again and told her to get off of \$87(2)(b) stating again that he had him. She told him that she was trying to help him. Police Officer Saladeen screamed, "Let him go." Police Officer Roman got up and let § 87(2)(b) Police Officer Roman stepped away from them and watched. She saw §87(2)(b) who was on his left side, facing right, spit once or twice. § 87(2)(b) s mouth opened, inches from Police Officer Saladeen's arm, seemingly to intentionally bite him. Police Officer Roman screamed, "Oh shit. Saladeen, he's going to bite you." Police Officer Saladeen then punched with his right hand before \$87(2)(b) was able to bite him. She saw Police Officer Saladeen swing his fist in \$87(2)(b) s direction and heard the fist make contact but she did not see where it made contact. She only saw and heard Police Officer Saladeen punch him once. Police Officer Saladeen grabbed \$87(2)(b) s back and pushed him down so that his face was against the floor, preventing him from biting. When he did that, Police Officer Roman grabbed Police Officer Saladeen's arm and said, "Stop. Just stop." §87(2)(b) said, "You see. You see what I'm fucking talking about. He's trying to fight." She told 887(2)(b) "Just shut up. Just stop resisting. Please. You're making it worse. Just stop." § 87(2)(b) screamed, "No. He wants to fight me. You think you're all fucking tough. Let's go. Take the cuffs off." Police Officer Saladeen grabbed and pushed [887(2)(b)] s face down by the back up his neck and upper shoulder area, telling him to "shut up." Police Officer Roman told Police Officer Saladeen to "just stop, please just stop. It ends right here." Police Officer Saladeen "loosened up" a little. Police Officer Roman called her sergeant and his operator and asked them to respond to the location. She believed that she was looking away while she was making the phone call. When she looked back after getting off the phone, she saw blood spread out on the floor, pooled beneath Page 8



that his should	der and Police Officer Salad	leen's shoulder hits the gr	ound next without his face ever
striking the flo	oor. When he is sat upright,	no blood can be seen on	his face.
When	he was taken to the ground	the second time, it was a	lso onto his right side, leaving
his left side ex	xposed to the right handed p	unches by Police Officer	Saladeen. Police Officer
Saladeen had	§ 87(2)(b) straddled on	the floor with his hands i	rear cuffed when he punched
him in the fac	e multiple times. As seen in	the TRI and in § 87(2)(b)	s arrest photo,
sus	stained a serious injury to the	e left side of his face that	
contusion and	l lacerations that required m	ultiple stitches. Upon rev	iewing the video, it seems clear
	es to the left side of § 87(2)(b)		
	other by the punches thrown		
handcuffs.	J 1	•	
In add	dition, Police Officer Roman	n stated that she offered to	o assist Police Officer Saladeen
			that he had everything under
•	d not need her assistance.	1, 8	, ,
§ 87(2)(g)			
	<u>-</u>		
G 1.0			
Squad: 2			
Investigator			
Investigator:	Signature	Print	Date
	Signature	FIIII	Date
Squad Leader			
Squau Leauer	Title/Signature	Print	Date
	Title/Signature	FIIII	Date
Reviewer:			
Keviewei.	Title/Signature	Print	Date
	Tiuc/Signature	FIIII	Date

of his body, and the takedown is relatively controlled; his hips hit the ground first, and it appears